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The Urban District Council of Wigston



A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1959



Incorporating a report on
the sanitary circumstances
of the District prepared by
H. Deamer, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

R.W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

ROBERT WILLIAM KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

H. DEAMER, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

T.H. OWEN

(Appointed 1st April, 1959)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors

P.N. WATKIN

(Called to National Service 16th July, 1959)

P.W. VOSS

(Appointed 14th September, 1959)

Clerical Assistant

MISS J. SUTCLIFFE

(Left 11th April, 1959)

Area in acres 3,432

Number of occupied houses

Rateable Value at April 1st 1959

..... 6,468

..... £232,846

Additional occupied houses

combined with shops 140

Sum represented by a penny rate

Number of houses owned

by the Council 1,278

Population (mid 1959) 19,200

BIRTHS

Live births: Legitimate

Male 206

Female 227

Total 433

Illegitimate

Male 8

Female 4

Total 12

Total Live Births

Male 214

Female 231

Total 445

Stillbirths:

Male 4

Female 5

Total 9

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated
population 23.1

DEATHS

Deaths: All causes

Male 85

Female 88

Total 173

Deaths from puerperal causes

..... NIL

Deaths of infants under one
year

Male 4

Female 3

Total 7

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks
of age

Male 4

Female 1

Total 5

Death rate per 1,000 estimated
population 9.0

Infant mortality per 1,000
live births 15.7

Causes of Deaths

Year ending 31st December,

Registrar General's Classification		1959		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2	8
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14	Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other	9	8	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	-	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	10	18	28
18	Coronary disease, angina	16	9	25
19	Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
20	Other heart disease	7	11	18
21	Other circulatory disease	4	3	7
22	Influenza	2	1	3
23	Pneumonia	2	3	5
24	Bronchitis	8	1	9
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29	Hyperplasia of the prostate	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	-	2	2
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	11	18
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34	All other accidents	-	1	1
35	Suicide	2	3	5
36	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		85	88	173

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

IMMUNISATION

258 children under the age of five years received their primary immunisation against diphtheria. A further 127 children received treatment to maintain their immunity.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued to make satisfactory progress. Most General Practitioners in the District are now carrying out this treatment.

BCG vaccination was again offered to children of school leaving age. 62 boys and 71 girls accepted it.

TUBERCULOSIS

There was one death from this disease during 1959. Four new cases came to notice, their distribution being as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	1

Five further cases of tuberculosis came to reside within the District. Twenty one cases are known to have achieved cure and four further cases left the District.

The total number of cases residing in the District at the close of the year was as shown:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	58	45	103
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	3	5
Totals	60	48	108

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified:-

Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	11
Measles	128
Acute pneumonia	4
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1
Meningococcal infection	1
Food poisoning	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during the year under review.

A REPORT
ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1959

H. DEAMER, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent



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1. WATER SUPPLY

The quality of the water supply has been satisfactory. The supply is from mains under pressure, chlorinated, and is soft in character. In common with many parts of the country, due to the dry summer and autumn, Wigston experienced the need for an intermittent supply of water from late October to mid-December. During this period, the water supply mains serving the area from the Shackerdale Farm Estate, eastwards to Leicester Road and southwards to Station Road were shut off from 8.0 p.m. to 7.0 a.m.

During the year a farm house deriving its water supply from a well was provided with a mains supply and a wooden bungalow served by a well was demolished. Of the 6,533 houses in the district, only 4 are supplied with water from wells and 13 by external standpipes. All the houses served by standpipes are included in the current slum clearance programme.

It is estimated that only 25 persons in the Urban District do not obtain their water from a pressure main supply.

Examination of water:

(a) Mains Water:

10 samples were taken, 6 for bacteriological and 4 for chemical examination. All the samples were reported satisfactory.

(b) Well water:

11 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from 2 wells. 5 samples were reported satisfactory. The owner of the premises served by one of these wells is to instal a candle filter plant. Subsequent check samples obtained from the premises served by the second well after the candle of the filter had been cleaned were found to be satisfactory.

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Every part of the Urban District is sewered with the exception of isolated houses in east Wigston and the properties in the Kilby Bridge area.

Extensions to sewers have been made for continuation of housing schemes as follows:-

(1) Shackerdale Farm Estate (2) Mere Road Estate (3) Grange Estate - east and north extensions (4) Guilford Drive storm sewer (5) Finns Estate (6) Spa Lane Estate (7) Little Hill Estate (8) Fairfield Estate - foul and storm sewers for continuation of the Magna Road Industrial Estate.

Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare sewerage schemes for additional areas including land to be used for housing development south of Moat Street and prepare a scheme for extension of the Sewage Works at Crow Mills.

3. CESSPOOLS AND CLOSETS

Two new cesspools have been constructed during the year. There are now a total of 24 in the district and 8 septic tank and filter disposal plants.

There are no earth closets, privies or ash-pits in the

district. There are 17 pail closets and an estimated 7,343 water closets.

Eleven cesspools are emptied by the Council workmen at not more than fortnightly intervals and other accessible ones on request. This work and the emptying of pail closets has been made more hygienic and efficient by the use of the mechanical cesspool/gully emptier purchased during the year.

4. TRADE WASTES AND SEWAGE EFFLUENT SAMPLES

Fifty five samples of the drainage from the metal plating plants at three factories were obtained and examined to determine their pH value and metal, cyanide etc., content.

Sample Summary

Satisfactory Samples	Unsatisfactory Samples			
	pH > 10.0	pH < 6.0	Excess Cyanide	Excess Metals
37	3	15	1	0

5. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is the responsibility of the Chief Public Health Inspector and is undertaken by direct labour and motor transport on the continuous system. Two 16/18 cubic yard vehicles are in use together with two general purpose vehicles used mainly for trade refuse collection and as reserve vehicles.

During the current year it has been necessary to operate one of these vehicles for approximately half a day weekly to collect house refuse from sparsely populated areas such as Welford Road, Kilby Bridge and Newton Lane where it was found uneconomical to send a large vehicle and full collecting gang. It was only possible by the partial use of such a third vehicle and splitting the collecting gangs into three on this half day, to maintain a reasonable period between collections. These periods have varied between 7 and 12 days for the South Gang and 7 and 9 days for the Magna Gang, with an average for the year of less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ days for each gang. Variations in collection periods were due to collectors being engaged on dealing with tip fires in March, April, July and September, vehicles stuck at the tip due to the use of sleeper tracks and illness among the collection staff.

A full time third collection gang and vehicle will be necessary in the near future if the present rate of housing development continues and new development takes place on the Fairfield and Little Hill Estates. Other reasons for a third pantechinon type of refuse vehicle are that

(a) the two small vehicles are uneconomical due to the need for them to be run to the tip twice as often as the large vehicles for emptying;

(b) to enable the small Karrier motor vehicle which is 15 years old to be disposed of whilst still in running order;

(c) the present fleet consists of three different types of vehicles requiring different sized tyres, differing non-interchangeable spares and additional man hours on maintenance.

Due to delivery difficulties of Shelvoke & Drewry Refuse Freighters (8 months from date of ordering) it is necessary to place an order at the beginning of the next financial year to enable the vehicle to be operative by the 1st January, 1961.

Apart from the need to man the suggested third large vehicle, additional collectors will eventually have to be employed to maintain a reasonable limited period between collections.

As stated in my previous two Annual Reports it is impossible to run the refuse tip efficiently without some adequate form of mechanical aid such as a Power Shovel or Bulldozer.

6. TRADE REFUSE

Another call upon the refuse collectors time which leads to longer periods between the collection of house refuse is the collection of trade refuse from shops and trade premises. This work is steadily increasing as can be seen from the receipts for this service during the past four years.

1957	£592
1958	£665
1959	£713
1960	£844

7. SALE OF SALVAGED MATERIALS

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Waste Paper	115	1	1	0
Textiles	3	19	1	12
Non-ferrous metals	-	5	3	24
Scrap iron and tins	18	13	2	0
	138	0	0	8
	=====			

The sale of these materials realised £692. 9.11.

8. DUST BINS

The dust bin loan scheme still continues to operate successfully but concern is felt at the increase in price of 7/- per bin during the last financial year. The purchase tax on a B.S.S. bin is over 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. It must be accepted that a sound dustbin is an adjunct to good health and that consequently this iniquitous tax should be removed or at least substantially reduced.

Upon perusing quotations for the supply of bins made to British Standard Specifications it is disturbing to find that four of the largest manufacturers in the country quote an almost identical price, well above that of the manufacturer obtaining our contract.

The number of bins on loan is 1,357 an increase of 103 during the year. 232 bins were sold to the Council's Housing Department and owners of private houses etc., during the year.

9. VEHICLES

All the Councils vehicles and moveable plant continue to be serviced, repaired and maintained under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector but this work is hampered due to the inadequacy of the service garage at Newgate End. The main storage garage consists of an open-fronted dutch barn which offers very poor protection for the vehicles against the elements and interference by unauthorised persons. I trust that speedy progress will be made in completing the proposals to provide more suitable maintenance and storage garage accommodation.

10. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

700 complaints were received;
272 concerned infestations by rats or mice;
258 concerned defective dustbins;
170 concerned other public health or housing matters.

658 premises were visited relating to 940 nuisances or defects which were dealt with.

Visits and Inspections:

Accumulations	20
Animal keeping	8
Dustbins	332
Refuse collection	227
Refuse Disposal Tip	254
Motor repairs and maintenance	98
Nuisances	486
Drainage Inspections	32
Moveable dwellings	4
Clean Air Act	60
Housing	160
Rent Acts	1
Improvement Grants	109
Certificates of Disrepair	12
Over-crowding	12
Dirty or Verminous premises	11
Water supply & sampling	23
Milk sampling	68
Ice-cream sampling	24
Food premises	140
Meat & Food inspection	439
Rat & Mice destruction (including visits by Rodent Operator)	844
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	21
Dairies and Milk Shops	31
Factories	40
Food poisoning & Dysentery investigations	40
National Assistance Act	2
Pet Animals Act	6
Trade effluent and sewage samples	55
Rag Flock Act	2
Other inspections	146

Notices:

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding 1st January	Nil	23
Issued during year	:	378
Complied during year	:	387
Statutory action necessary	:	Nil
Outstanding 31st December	:	14

Shops Act, 1950

The provisions of section 38 of the Act relating to the health and comfort of shop assistants are enforced by the Council and relate to -

Sanitary accommodation
Temperature
Ventilation
Washing facilities
Lighting
Facilities for taking meals

During inspections at food shops regard has been paid to the requirements of the Shops Act which are allied to those of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955; and whilst action has been taken in respect of contraventions of both the Act and Regulations, the inspections have been recorded under the Food Hygiene Regulations only.

Regulated Buildings

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trade establishments in the district.

There is a licensed site for one residential caravan and one licensed residential caravan in the district. Six living caravans owned by showmen have again wintered on the Burgess Street fairground. This site has been enclosed by the leaseholder to prevent itinerant salesmen occupying the site and thus the trouble experienced last year when these salesmen place living vans on the site and caused nuisance on the site and to the people in the adjacent houses has not been repeated.

A "house let in lodgings" has been established in Countesthorpe Road and is occupied by the owner and three families. Conditions are excellent at these premises and at the residential caravans.

Unclean or Verminous Premises

No premises were found to be infested by fleas or bed bugs, but the Health Department staff has dealt with an increasing number of complaints regarding the Common Furniture Beetle, the larval stage of which is known as woodworm, and due to the dry summer, innumerable wasp nests. Infestation of ants and mites have also been dealt with.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two premises are licensed under the Act. Necessary repairs and works of redecoration have not been pressed

at one, as the business is to be transferred to new premises in 1960, and the existing building demolished. At the second premises minor rat and mouse infestations and general untidyness have had to be dealt with and the storage in metal bins of animal foods insisted upon. Both premises are used for the sale of knacker meat with consequent attendant danger to health due to the rescinding of The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations 1959. As pointed out in my last year's report I am of the opinion that all knacker meat and condemned meat from slaughterhouses should be sterilized before being used as pet food.

Rag Flock and Other Milling Materials Act, 1951

There are two premises in the district registered under the Act for upholstering.

11. THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 and Food & Drugs Act 1955

Although the Health Department was without a qualified Additional Public Health Inspector for over nine months of the year under review, work under this important heading has not been unduly neglected, but it has been impossible to devote as much time as desired and necessary to it.

During the year the work of bringing an old fashioned butchers shop up to modern standards and conversion of the former slaughterhouse into a making up room was completed. A second outmoded butchers shop and attached rooms for the manufacture of sausages and meat products was demolished and replaced with a new structure.

A wooden cafe was destroyed by fire but is being replaced by a brick structure compatible with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Four premises were registered for the manufacture of sausages and/or meat products.

<u>Premises Inspected</u>	<u>Visits made</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
Butchers & Cooked meat shops	26	6	2
Grocers & General shops	25	16	3
Fishmongers & Fish & Chip shops	15	1	2
Greengrocers shops	12	5	1
Flour & Sugar Confectioners shops	7	1	0
Cafes, canteens and restaurants	10	1	2
Bakehouses	5	1	1
Dairies	2	1	1
Cold stores	2	0	0
Slaughterhouses	25	6	4
Mobile shops	8	3	2
	137	41	18

The following list indicates the nature and type of the various improvements effected.

New equipment washing sinks provided	2
Washing facilities provided	6
Hot water supply provided	4
Ventilation improved	1
Walls tiled	2
Floor covering provided	1
Premises redecorated	9
Counters, shelves etc., resurfaced	11
Clothes lockers provided	4
Refrigerators provided	2
Protective covers for food provided	4
New cutting boards provided	1
New potato chippers provided	2
First-aid kits provided	6

Ice Cream

69 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. There are no manufacturers in the district. During the year a manufacturing firm of national repute built a cold store in Magna Road which is used for the storage of ice-cream prior to disposal by wholesale.

24 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year. All were placed in Provisional Grade I. 5 of these samples from 4 different producers were obtained in December, to ascertain the effect of long storage in ordinary retail conservors, on the bacterial quality of the ice-cream. The samples had been at the dealers' shops for periods varying from one to six weeks. These satisfactory results indicate the high standard of cleanliness practiced by reputable ice-cream manufacturers and the efficiency of the average shop conservor.

Milk - Dairies and Distributors

	<u>Dairies</u>	<u>Distributors</u>
Number on Register	1	28
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949		
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk Regulations) 1949		

Licences issued:-

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	19	6
Sterilized	12	6
Tuberculin tested	4	3

Milk samples

68 samples of bottled milk were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

43 of the samples were of Pasteurised milk, 23 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and 2 Sterilized. All the samples were reported as satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods Inspection

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1959.

The Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959.

The Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction 1959.

In July 1959 your Chief Public Health Inspector reported to the Health Committee the implications of the Act, Report and Direction. In November, 1959, he was able to provide the Clerk of the Council with a comprehensive report on the two slaughterhouses in the district and a memorandum intended for distribution to interested parties, i.e. representatives of the Meat Trade etc., with whom the Wigston Urban District Council must consult before the authority submits its report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This report must review the existing and probable future requirements of slaughterhouse facilities in the district, such facilities which are likely to become available and the condition of the existing slaughterhouses in respect of the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Regulations 1958, dealing with hygiene and cruelty. At this meeting the Local Authority must decide on and include in a report to be submitted to the aforementioned Minister by the 2nd November, 1960, a date which it recommends the Minister to fix for the whole of the Slaughterhouse Regulations, 1958, to apply to the slaughterhouses in Wigston.

It will be helpful to the local butchers etc., if this meeting is held and the report prepared at an early date.

The number of animals killed at one of the local slaughterhouses has been reduced due to a Leicester firm of butchers who used the premises finding other slaughtering facilities in Leicester.

The quality of the meat produced in the two local slaughterhouses continues to be excellent as indicated by the small amount condemned.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	514	2	120	4024	543	-
Number inspected	514	2	120	4024	543	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	115	Nil	Nil	334	60	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	22.3%	Nil	Nil	8.4%	11.2%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4%	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.28%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	One degenerated cyst was found in the myocardium of two heifers. The carcasses were not submitted to treatment by refrigeration					
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-

Disposal of Condemned Food

The following foods were surrendered, condemned and disposed of by deep burial at the Council's refuse tip.

77 tins of meat

17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of ham

Vinegar Eels (Anguillula aceti)

Following a report from a neighbouring authority that vinegar bought in their area contained vinegar eels, and had been served from a cask obtained from

and returned to a wholesaler in Wigston, investigations were carried out at the latter's premises. The affected cask was found, the brewers informed and asked to thoroughly cleanse or destroy the cask. This 6 gallon cask had been in use at the retailers shop for 6 months.

The eel has no pathogenic significance but its presence results from careless manufacture, unclean condition of storage vessels and long storage.

Unsound cakes

Investigations into the cause of a soapy taste in the chocolate covering of some otherwise sound cakes revealed that lemon icing left over from another batch of cakes of a different flavour had been blended with the chocolate icing. The lemon essence had not, however, been pasteurised and therefore still contained lipase, a fat splitting enzyme, which had split the cocoa fat in the chocolate icing into chemical constituents which caused the soapy taste.

An enzyme is an organic catalyst or ferment which is destroyed at pasteurising temperature. It is capable of hastening changes in other substances without itself becoming altered.

12. KNACKER YARD

There is one Knacker Yard in the district and conditions generally have been satisfactory during the year. The owners have intimated that rather than provide a separate bay or room for the slaughter of horses they will cease slaughtering these animals in the Knacker Yard. The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, requires inter alia the provision of such a bay by the 1st January, 1960.

13. RODENT CONTROL

The district continues to be systematically surveyed and disinfestation is carried out by the techniques advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. Early in the year a new technique of sewer baiting was carried out using nylon stockings, rejected by manufacturers, as bait containers in the manholes. By suspending these containers well above the level to which the sewage would rise during surcharging of the sewers the bait remained dry and palatable to the rats for an extended period. Strips of wire mesh attached to the base of the containers permitted the rats to gain access to the bait.

A full-time Rodent Operator is employed.

Surface treatment 1st April 1959 to 31st March 1960

Approximate number of properties to be protected	6,902
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No. of properties inspected as a
result of :-

(a) Notification	164
(b) Survey under the Act	111
(c) When visited for some other purpose	6

Number of properties found to be infested

(a) Rats

Major infestations	5
Minor infestations	131

(b) Mice

Major infestations	Nil
Minor infestations	26

(an infestation estimated to exceed 20 rats or mice is classified as a major infestation)

Types of premises infested

(1) Council properties	15
(2) Dwelling houses including Council houses	128
(3) Business premises	29
(4) Agricultural premises	1
	173
	=====

Sewer treatments

The 28th and 29th bi-annual treatments of the sewers were carried out between the 13th April and 1st May and the 19th October and 4th November, 1959. There are approximately 420 manholes on the Town sewers. The method of baiting the manholes involves pre-baiting on the first day, poison baiting on the fourth day and the laying of a second poison bait on the eighth day in the manholes from which there has been a good take of the first poison bait.

14. HOUSING

During the year the slum clearance programme was almost brought to a standstill due to the inability of the Council to obtain land on which to erect dwellings. Consequently 72 of the houses scheduled to be made the subject of demolition orders during the years 1958/1960 remain to be dealt with.

At a Public Inquiry held in respect of the inclusion of a house and shop, 18, Moat Street, in a Clearance Area, the owners objection was that the premises could not rightly be included as they were primarily a shop. The Minister of Housing and Local Government did not concur with the owners interpretation and made a Clearance Order.

Two houses, Nos. 12 and 14 Church Nook, scheduled to be dealt with as unfit houses in 1960/1963 have been reconditioned, provided with bathrooms and internal waterclosets and consequently removed from the schedule of unfit houses.

No Clearance Areas were declared during the year.

Individual unfit houses dealt with under Sections 16 & 17 - Housing Act, 1957

10, Moat Street	6, Mowsley End
27, Moat Street	2, Park Road
1, Railway Cottages	91, 93 & 95, Leicester Road

<u>Total 7 houses</u>	<u>1 house and shop</u>
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Demolition during year of houses in:-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Shops</u>
(a) <u>Confirmed Clearance Area</u>		
<u>Area No. 19</u>		
20 to 26 North Street	4	-
<u>Area No. 23</u>		
24, 26 & 28, Bushloe End	2	1
<u>Area No. 24</u>		
28 to 32, Bull Head Street	4	-
Total	10	1
	=====	=====
(b) <u>Individual unfit houses</u>		
27 & 29, Bull Head Street	2	-
119 to 137, Bull Head Street	10	-
146, Moat Street	1	-
The Bungalow, Horsewell Lane	1	-
	14	-
	=====	=====

Overcrowding

Two houses were found to be overcrowded. Both cases have been abated, one by the provision of a Council house for the tenant and the second by the tenants married son and family finding other accommodation.

In the field of Council house letting I feel that better use could be made of 3 and 4 bedroomed houses by the movement of families who have no further use for houses of this size due to diminution in the number of children.

Improvement Grants - Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, House Purchase and Housing Act 1959

32 premises were inspected as a result of enquiries regarding Improvement Grants.

	<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>Standard Grants</u>
No of applications received	14	3
No of applications approved	12	2
No of applications refused	2	1
No of applications withdrawn	2	-
No of schemes completed during year	10	1

In addition to the above schemes at private houses, wash basins were installed and gas water heaters to supply basins, existing baths and sinks at 66 Council houses.

The two discretionary grant applications refused related to wholly business premises and a house where the cost of necessary improvement works was less than the requisite £100.

14 of the applications were from owner/occupiers and 3 from the owners of rented houses.

Certificates of Disrepair - Rent Act, 1957

There was a considerable reduction again in the number of applications for Certificates compared with 1958 and 1957 when there were 11 and 16 applications respectively. Applicants houses were inspected by the Public Health Inspector and items of disrepair set out on Form G, reported upon to a Sub-Committee of the Council.

No of applications received (Form G)	2
No of Certificates issued	0
No of undertakings received	2
Repairs carried out before certificates issued	0

New houses

The following information relating to new houses etc., has been received from other Departments:-

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	499
Applications received during year	205

Programme of Local Authority houses

Erected during year	30
In course of erection at end of year	Nil

Programme of Private Enterprise houses

Erected during year	307
In course of erection at end of year	216

Total number of Post-War Houses Completed

Local Authority	925
Private Enterprise	1,621

15. FACTORIES

There are 127 factories on the register as follows:-

Agricultural Machinery Repairers	2
Bakers	2
Biscuit Manufacturers	1
Boat Builders	1
Boot and Shoe Manufacturers (including clickers, closers etc.)	10
Boot and Shoe Repairers	4
Builders and Joiners	11

Carton and Box Adaptors	1
Cycle Repairers	1
Drum Manufacturers	2
Electrical Component manufacturers	1
Metal Platers	1
Electric Vehicle Manufacturers	1
Engineers	12
Furniture Repairers	2
Electric Heating Appliance Manufacturers	1
Hosiery Manufacturers, Dyers and Finishers	30
Iron Founders	1
Knacker Butchers	1
Launderers	1
Milk Pasteurisers	1
Motor Vehicle Repairers	13
Non-Ferrous Metal Founders	1
Pattern Makers	3
Plastic Moulders	1
Pre-cast Concrete Manufacturers	1
Printers	3
Radio, T.V. Repairers	2
Railway Waggon Repairers	1
Salt Packers	1
Sausage, Cooked Meat etc., Manufacturers	6
Slaughterhouses	2
Tailors	1
Manufacturing Woodworkers	1
Wood Last Manufacturers	1
Canal Maintenance	1
Plant Hire	1
Plaster Fancy Goods Manufacturers	1

(a) Inspections

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No of inspections</u>	<u>Notices served</u>
Factories with mechanical power	40	4
Building sites etc.	5	0
	45	4
=====		

(b) Defects found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>		
Insufficient	2	2
Unsuitable	16	11
	18	13
=====		

Outworkers

Outworkers are employed only by firms engaged in the manufacture of hosiery and footwear.

The number of outworkers employed during the 6 months preceding August, 1959, was as follows:-

Number of local firms employing outworkers	13
Number of local outworkers employed by such firms	70
Number of outworkers outside district employed by such firms	77
Number of outside firms employing local outworkers	17
Number of local outworkers employed by such firms	29
Number of outworkers in district	99

No instances occurred of outwork being performed in unwholesome premises.

15. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

During the year 47 observations were made of the smoke emitted from the chimneys of 14 premises.

18 visits were made to 11 of these premises to check the boiler plant etc.

18 excessive emission of smoke, grit or soot were noted from 11 premises.

Informal notices were served on 6 firms regarding excessive emissions and 3 of the firms abated the nuisances by the following means -

- Improved stoking procedure.
- Use of better quality fuel.
- Ceasing to burn factory refuse on an underfeed boiler.

At the three remaining factories orders have been given for the installation of new fire bars and repairs to the fire doors at one; the installation of equipment to enable scrap wood, shavings and sawdust to be used as boiler fuel without causing nuisance at a second and the conversion of the boiler plant to burn oil fuel at a third.

Whilst the installation of automatic means for stoking commercial boilers is desirable and will become a necessity if and when Wigston is declared a Smoke Control Area, much could be done by factory executives to reduce air pollution and at the same time the firms' fuel bills, if they would appreciate the enormous annual waste of fuel and money occasioned by one boiler which does not consume its own smoke. They would then take immediate steps to ensure that their boiler operative, if practicing hand firing, was efficient at this highly skilled job, that the boiler and equipment were in good repair and efficient whether fired by hand or automatically, and that automatic stoking is, taking all things into consideration, cheaper than hand firing.

APPENDIX 'A'

I am indebted to the Engineer & Surveyor to the
Wigston Urban District Council for the following report:-

RAINFALL in 1959

At WIGSTON U.D.C. Sewage Farm
in the County of Leicestershire

Rain Gauge	{	Diameter of Funnel	8 inches
		Height of top above ground	9 inches
		Height of ground above sea level	259 feet

Month	Total Depth Inches	<u>Greatest Fall</u> <u>in 24 hours</u> Inches	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of days with</u> <u>.01</u> or more	<u>.04</u> or more
January	3.05	.80	6	13	13
February	0.05	.02	15	3	-
March	1.91	.48	3	15	12
April	2.03	.46	16	13	12
May	0.40	.14	1	5	3
June	0.94	.34	27	14	6
July	1.21	.42	27	10	7
August	0.61	.24	10	6	4
September	0.07	.04	18	2	1
October	1.96	.65	26	11	11
November	2.08	.55	14	17	10
December	<u>3.61</u>	.57	14	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>
	17.92 =====			132 =====	97 =====

